>

Title: Need to ensure payment of the minimum wages to the workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in Tirunelveli Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): The implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee (MGNAREGA) programme by the UPA Government is a great blessing to the rural people and it ensures guaranteed regular employment, minimum wages to the rural population and development of rural areas. In my Tirunelveli Constituency, Tamilnadu about 83,000 people are working under the scheme and out of this 60,000 are women. They used to get Rs. 148 as their wages and leading their normal life. However, for the past 2 months, they have been denied this statutory minimum wages and are being paid a meagre amount of Rs. 30 - 40 instead of Rs. 148. This is a grave injustice to the poor rural labourers particularly women who toil all through the day. With this small amount, they are not able to eat even their one time meal. If this situation prevails, we can't achieve our goal of elimination of poverty and assure wage to the labourers.

As this is a serious issue, I humbly urge upon the Union Government to kindly intervene in the matter and immediately direct the authorities to disburse statutory minimum wages including arrears of wages to all the workers engaged in the MGNREGA scheme in my Tirunelveli Lok Sabha Constituency, Tamil Nadu.